**The BERLIN AIRLIFT:**

**How Germany was divided in 1945**

In 1945, the Allies decided to **split Germany** into four zones of occupation. The capital, Berlin, was also split into four zones. The USSR took huge reparations from its zone in eastern Germany, but Britain, France and America tried to improve conditions in their zones.

In June 1948, Britain, France and America united their zones into a new country, West Germany. On 23 June 1948, they introduced a new currency, which they said would help trade.

The next day, Stalin cut off all rail and road links to west Berlin - the **Berlin Blockade**. The west saw this as an attempt to starve Berlin into surrender, so they decided to supply west Berlin by air.

The Berlin Blockade lasted 318 days. During this time, 275,000 planes transported 1.5 million tons of supplies and a plane landed every three minutes at Berlin's Templehof airport.

On 12 May 1949, Stalin **abandoned** the blockade.

**Causes and results of the Berlin Crisis of 1948**

**Important dates and events**

| **Date** | **Event** |
| --- | --- |
| January 1947 | Britain and the USA join their two zones together into **Bi-zonia** (two zones). |
| December 1947 | London Conference: America, Britain and France meet to discuss **Germany's future**. Russia is not present. |
| January 1948 | Russia starts to **stop** western literature being sold in the Soviet zone. |
| March 1948 | The USA offers Marshall Aid. Stalin forbids Cominform countries to take part. |
| April 1948 | Russia imposes a **partial blockade** of west Berlin - Allied transport into the city has to apply for a permit and is inspected. |
| 1 June 1948 | America, Britain and France announce they wanted to create a **new country** of West Germany. |
| 23 June 1948 | America, Britain and France introduce a **new currency** - this causes economic chaos in the Russian zone as everyone tries to get rid of their old money and change to the new currency. |

Now consider this quote from the US commander in Berlin, General Clay:

When Berlin falls, Western Germany will be next. If we withdraw our position in Berlin, Europe is threatened... Communism will run rampant.

*General Clay*

**Results of the Berlin Crisis of 1948**

1. Germany was divided into the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the Democratic Republic of Germany (East Germany) until 1990.
2. The Iron Curtain became permanent.
3. The Cold War broke out into open confrontation, and the two superpowers began an Arms Race.
4. In 1949, the Allies set up the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as a military alliance to resist Soviet Russia.

**THE KOREAN WAR:**

The decade after the Second World War saw Communism spread to the Far East, eventually dividing Korea. The Korean War lasted three years and peace was only achieved when the use of the atomic bomb was threatened.

**The problem in Korea**

In 1945, Korea was split along the 38th parallel between a **communist north** led by Kim IL Sung, and a **non-communist south** led by Syngman Rhee.

But communism was **growing** in the Far East. In 1949, the Communists had taken power in China. The US developed the **'domino theory'** - the idea that, if one country fell to communism, others would follow like a row of dominoes. Then, in 1950, a report by the American National Security Council (**'NSC68'**) recommended that the US stop containment and start to roll back communism.

**The war**

* In 1950, after getting the support of Russia and China, Kim IL Sung invaded South Korea.
* The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) easily defeated the Republic of Korea's army (the ROKs).
* By September, the NKPA had conquered almost the whole of South Korea.
* The USA went to the United Nations and got them to send troops to defend South Korea.
* The Russians couldn't veto the idea because they were boycotting the UN at the time.
* In September, UN troops, led by the US General MacArthur, landed in Korea and drove the NKPA back.
* By October, the UN forces had almost conquered all of North Korea.
* In November 1950, Chinese People's Volunteers attacked and drove the Americans back.
* They recaptured North Korea, and advanced into South Korea.
* The Americans landed more troops and drove the Chinese back to the 38th parallel, where Truman ordered General MacArthur to stop and sacked him when he disagreed.
* The war went on as border clashes until 1953 when America's new president, Eisenhower, offered peace, but threatened to use the atomic bomb if China did not accept the offer.

Recently, historians have shown that the Korean crisis **almost** led to a third world war - many US advisers wanted to use the atomic bomb.

**Source A**

"Of the 16 countries contributing forces, the USA provided 50 per cent of land forces, 93 per cent of air forces, 86 per cent of naval forces. The UN gave the USA unlimited authority to direct military operations. US president Truman, not the UN, appointed General MacArthur as commander-in-chief of UN forces. MacArthur reported to the US President and took orders from him. The war threatened to become one between the USA and China. The USA even considered using nuclear weapons against China."

*James Mason with Angela Leonard, Modern World History to GCSE (2001)*

**Source B**

This drawing by the British cartoonist David Low, published in the Daily Herald on 30 June 1950, shows Truman and the United Nations rushing to Korea's aid.

 cartoon illustration where the League of Nations is depicted as a
 grave as President Truman and the UN leap over it

**THE CUBAN MISISLE CRISIS:**

The **threat** of nuclear war became increasingly apparent. It was vital that Kennedy and Khrushchev came to some sort of **agreement** - the future of the world depended on it.

# Crisis summary

President Kennedy did not dare to invade Cuba, because that action could have started a world war - yet he could **not** let the missile sites be completed. With his advisers, he decided on a **naval blockade** to prevent Russian ships delivering the missiles for the Cuban sites.

Khrushchev warned that Russia would see the blockade as an **act of war**. Russian forces were put on **alert**; US bombers were put in the air carrying **nuclear bombs**; preparations were made to **invade** Cuba. There was **massive tension** in both Washington and Moscow. Everybody thought the world was going to come to an end. Secretly, the Americans suggested a **trade-off** of missile bases - US bases in Turkey for Russian bases in Cuba.

The Russians made the first public move. The ships heading for Cuba **turned back**, and Khrushchev sent a telegram offering to **dismantle** the Cuban bases if Kennedy lifted the blockade and promised not to invade Cuba. Then, as though having second thoughts, he sent a second letter **demanding** the dismantling of the Turkish bases. At the vital moment, a US U2 spy plane was shot down.

However, Kennedy ignored the U2 attack and **agreed** publicly to the first letter, and secretly to the second. The crisis was over.

**One week in October 1962**

| **Day** | **Events** |
| --- | --- |
| Monday 22 October | Kennedy announces a naval blockade of Cuba. B52 nuclear bombers are deployed, so that one-eighth of them are airborne all the time. Kennedy warns of a full retaliatory response, if any missile is launched from Cuba. |
| Tuesday 23 October | Khrushchev explains that the missile sites are "solely to defend Cuba against the attack of an aggressor". |
| Wednesday 24 October | Twenty Russian ships head for Cuba. Khrushchev tells the captains to ignore the blockade. Khrushchev warns that Russia will have "a fitting reply to the aggressor". |
| Thursday 25 October | The first Russian ship reaches the naval blockade. It is an oil ship and is allowed through. The other Russian ships turn back. Secretly, the US government floats the idea of removing the missiles in Turkey in exchange for those in Cuba. |
| Friday 26 October | Russia is still building the missile bases. In the morning, Kennedy considers an invasion of Cuba. It seems that war is about to break out. But at 6pm, Kennedy gets a telegram from Khrushchev offering to dismantle the sites if Kennedy lifts the blockade and promises not to invade Cuba. |
| Saturday 27 October | However, at 11am Khrushchev sends a second letter, demanding that Kennedy also dismantles American missile bases in Turkey. At noon on the same day, a U2 plane is shot down over Cuba. It looks as if a war is about to start after all. At 8.05pm, Kennedy sends a letter to Khrushchev, offering that if Khrushchev dismantles the missile bases in Cuba, America will lift the blockade and promise not to invade Cuba - and also dismantle the Turkish missile bases (as long as this is kept a secret). |
| Sunday 28 October | Khrushchev agrees to Kennedy's proposals. The crisis is over. |
| Tuesday 20 November | Russian bombers leave Cuba, and Kennedy lifts the naval blockade. |

# Repercussions of the crisis

Speaking many years later, Khrushchev claimed that he had **won** the Cuban missile crisis. He had **achieved** both his aims - America **never bothered Cuba again** (which is still a Communist country) and the **US missile sites in Turkey were dismantled** in November 1962.

The world did not see it that way at the time, because the Turkey deal was kept secret, the West saw Kennedy as the **hero** who had faced down Communism.

Meanwhile, Khrushchev **lost prestige**. China broke off relations with Russia and, in 1964, he was forced to **resign** as Soviet leader.

**Lasting effects of the crisis**

 cartoon of Kennedy and Khrushchev arm wrestling sitting on 
nuclear missiles

'OK Mr President, let's talk'

On 29 October 1962, this cartoon was published in the 'Daily Mail'. The caption read: 'OK Mr President, let's talk'.

The message of the cartoon was clear - the world had avoided a nuclear war, but it was time for reason. In fact, both leaders had frightened themselves. Soon afterwards:

* In 1963, a **telephone hotline** was set up to give instant contact between the two leaders if there was a crisis.
* In 1963, a **Nuclear Test Ban Treaty** was signed.
* In 1968, the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** was signed - the superpowers promised not to supply nuclear technology to other countries.

**THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE & MARSHALL PLAN**

In 1947, two important events occured: firstly, President Truman warned the American Congress that it was America's job to **contain Communism** - this became known as the Truman Doctrine - and secondly, General George Marshall came up with a plan to help Europe **recover** from the war using American money - this became known as the Marshall Plan. In this Revision Bite, you will learn about these policies.

# Events 1947

By 1947, Greece was one of the few countries in Eastern Europe that **hadn't** turned communist. The Communist rebels in Greece were prevented from taking over by the British Army.

America was becoming **increasingly alarmed** by the growth of Soviet power. So, when the British told Truman they could no longer afford to keep their soldiers in Greece, Truman stepped in to take over. In March 1947, he told the American Congress it was America's job to stop communism growing any stronger. This was called the **Truman Doctrine**. It is often said that Truman advocated **containment** (stopping the Soviet getting any more powerful), but Truman did not use this word and many Americans spoke of **"rolling back"** communism.

In June 1947, General George Marshall made a visit to Europe to see what was needed. He came away thinking Europe was so poor that the whole of Europe was about to turn Communist. Marshall and Truman asked Congress for $17 billion to fund the European Recovery Programme nicknamed **the Marshall Plan** - to get the economy of Europe going again. Congress at first hesitated, but agreed in March 1948 when Czechoslovakia turned Communist. The aid was given in the form of food, grants to buy equipment, improvements to transport systems, and everything "from medicine to mules". Most (70 per cent) of the money was used to buy commodities from US suppliers: $3.5 billion was spent on raw materials; $3.2 billion on food, feed and fertiliser; $1.9 billion on machinery and vehicles; and $1.6 billion on fuel.

Stalin **forbade** the Cominform countries to apply for Marshall Aid.

**DÉTENTE:**

The policy of détente refers to the time in the 1960s-1970s when the two superpowers **eased tension** and tried to **cooperate** to avoid conflict in the Cold War. A number of events happened during this time period that illustrate this new policy.

**Key achievements 1960s-1970s**

In the late 1960s and 1970s, both superpowers talked a lot about 'détente'. Key achievements included:

**Achievements in détente**

| **Image** | **Date** | **Event** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| o nuclear weapons to other countries | 1968 | **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:** powers with nuclear weapons agreed not to give any other countries nuclear technology. |
| able tennis | 1971 | The US **table tennis** team played in China. |
| hina joins the UN | 1971 | The US dropped its veto and allowed **China to join the United Nations.** |
| ixon in China | 1972 | The US President **Nixon visited China.** |
| alt 1 treaty | 1972 | Russia and America signed the **SALT1 Treaty** (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) agreeing to limit their anti-ballistic missiles and bombers. |
| elsinki agreement | 1975 | The **Helsinki Agreement** recognised Soviet control over Eastern Europe, concluded a trade agreement, and Russia promised to respect human rights. |

**Causes of détente**

1. America was shocked by the Vietnam War and wanted to stay out of world affairs. There was also a vociferous CND movement in the West.
2. The arms race was very expensive for both superpowers.
3. The price of oil rocketed in the 1970s, and both superpowers experienced economic problems.

**Limitations of détente**

1. The Non-Proliferation Treaty did not stop other countries developing nuclear weapons (eg China, and perhaps South Africa and Israel).
2. Neither Russia or America kept to the SALT1 agreement. Neither side reduced their conventional weapons. Further talks were much less successful and a SALT2 Treaty in 1979 added little.
3. In the Arab-Israeli War of 1973, America supported Israel, and Russia supported Egypt and Syria.
4. The Helsinki Agreement achieved nothing - it confirmed the Iron Curtain and Russia ignored its promises about human rights.
5. Table tennis and space meetings were just one-off propaganda stunts.
6. Brezhnev said that Communists would still try to destroy capitalism. Some historians suggest that Nixon only went to China to drive a wedge between Russia and China

### SPUTNIK AND THE SPACE RACE

History changed on October 4, 1957, when the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I. The world's first artificial satellite was about the size of a beach ball (58 cm.or 22.8 inches in diameter), weighed only 83.6 kg. or 183.9 pounds, and took about 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path. That launch ushered in new political, military, technological, and scientific developments. While the Sputnik launch was a single event, it marked the start of the space age and the U.S.-U.S.S.R space race.

 The story begins in 1952, when the International Council of Scientific Unions decided to establish July 1, 1957, to December 31, 1958, as the [International Geophysical Year (IGY)](http://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/igy.html) because the scientists knew that the cycles of solar activity would be at a high point then. In October 1954, the council adopted a resolution calling for artificial satellites to be launched during the IGY to map the Earth's surface.

In [July 1955, the White House announced plans](http://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/17.html) to launch an Earth-orbiting satellite for the IGY and solicited proposals from various Government research agencies to undertake development. In September 1955, the Naval Research Laboratory's [Vanguard](http://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/TOC.html) proposal was chosen to represent the U.S. during the IGY.

The Sputnik launch changed everything. As a technical achievement, Sputnik caught the world's attention and the American public off-guard. Its size was more impressive than Vanguard's intended 3.5-pound payload. In addition, the public feared that the Soviets' ability to launch satellites also translated into the capability to launch ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear weapons from Europe to the U.S. Then the Soviets struck again; on November 3, Sputnik II was launched, carrying a much heavier payload, including a dog named Laika.

Immediately after the Sputnik I launch in October, the U.S. Defense Department responded to the political furor by approving funding for another U.S. satellite project. As a simultaneous alternative to Vanguard, Wernher von Braun and his Army Redstone Arsenal team began work on the [Explorer](http://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/expinfo.html) project.

On January 31, 1958, the tide changed, when the United States successfully launched Explorer I. This satellite carried a small scientific payload that eventually discovered the magnetic radiation belts around the Earth, named after principal investigator James Van Allen. The Explorer program continued as a successful ongoing series of lightweight, scientifically useful spacecraft.

 The Sputnik launch also led directly to the creation of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In July 1958, Congress passed the [National Aeronautics and Space Act (commonly called the "Space Act")](http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/spaceact.html), which created NASA as of October 1, 1958 from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and other government agencies.